

CNI Welcomes Commitment to Repeal Outdated Laws and Drive Policy Reforms



The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) has welcomed the government's commitment, under the leadership of Prime Minister Balendra Shah, to repeal outdated and irrelevant laws and introduce much-needed policy reforms.

As a representative body of both manufacturing and service industries, CNI believes the newly formed government has shown encouraging intent by prioritizing the implementation of recommendations that the private sector has consistently put forward. The government's strong emphasis on good governance and its commitment to combating corruption align with the broader aspirations of the business community and the public at large.

CNI particularly appreciates the decision to repeal several laws it has long identified as barriers, including those restricting outbound investment, provisions related to compensation, the Black Marketing and Certain Social Offences and Punishment Act, and the Nepal Agency Act. The decision to dissolve the Revenue Investigation Department has also been positively received.

The government's focus on improving public service delivery is another welcome step. Plans to fully digitize services, establish a one-door integrated system, and enhance transparency and accountability are seen as critical reforms. Equally important is the

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commitment to fast-track processes related to land acquisition, compensation determination, tree clearance, and environmental impact assessments to ensure timely and high-quality execution of national pride and strategic projects. Making public procurement fully digital, transparent, and trackable while promoting fair competition is also a positive move.

In addition, CNI welcomes the government's priorities around strengthening security arrangements for industries, commercial hubs, banking infrastructure, and supply chains. Measures such as reactivating the Industry-Commerce Dialogue Council under the Prime Minister's leadership, automating tax administration, facilitating power purchase agreements, and immediately implementing strategies to protect and promote the private sector are encouraging signals.

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VP'S MESSAGE



The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) firmly believes that sustainable economic development is essential for the country's long-term prosperity. A strong and resilient economy must be built on a solid, long-term policy supportive industrial base, which can generate employment, enhance productivity, and provide quality thereby sustainably providing a more secure and sustainable economy. To achieve this, Nepal must prioritize import substitution by promoting and strengthening domestic industries, enabling them to produce goods that can compete effectively both locally and internationally. The government and private sector need to trust and work closely together on policy reforms to capture low-hanging fruits in the short-term and propel sectoral industries in the medium and long-term future.

However, building a competitive industrial sector requires strategic efforts. It is crucial to reduce the cost of investment and minimize production expenses so that locally manufactured products can compete in regional and global markets. Without competitiveness, it will be difficult for Nepal to expand its export base. Several measures can support this goal, including providing energy subsidies, introducing production-linked incentives, improving access to finance, and lowering interest rates to encourage industrial growth and investment.

At the same time, Nepal faces a significant challenge in the availability of skilled human resources. A large number of young people are leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad, while domestic industries struggle with labor shortages. This mismatch highlights the urgent need for policies that focus on retaining youth within the country. Investing in skill development programs and aligning education with industry needs will ensure that the workforce is equipped to contribute effectively to industrial growth.

By addressing these challenges holistically, Nepal can build a competitive, self-reliant, and sustainable economy.

-Mr. Amit More

CNI Holds Discussion with Finance Minister, Pledges Support for a Business-Friendly and Liberal Economy

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held a discussion with Finance Minister Dr. Swarnim Wagle about the state of the country's economy. Led by CNI President Birendra Raj Pandey, the delegation met on Monday evening to exchange greetings and discuss current economic challenges and potential solutions.

During the meeting, President Pandey highlighted areas where the government should focus immediately, in the medium term, and long term to achieve good governance and high economic growth, which the people of Nepal expect. He welcomed Minister Wagle's commitment to second generation economic reforms and the repeal of outdated or irrelevant laws, expressing confidence that the government will prioritize overall economic improvement starting from the upcoming budget.

He emphasized the need for policies that promote job creation, high economic growth, and production-oriented industries to reduce imports. He also stressed that earning money should not be viewed as a crime, urging the government to create a positive environment where legally earning wealth is respected. Given the current weak demand, he suggested policies to boost overall market demand.

He also informed Minister Wagle that CNI is conducting a study on how Nepal's current \$45 billion economy could grow to \$100 billion over the next 10 years, and that a report will be shared with the government soon.

Minister Wagle said he took charge of the Finance Ministry to steer the economy in the right direction. He noted that foreign investment will follow a motivated private sector



and assured that production-oriented industries aimed at import substitution will receive special attention. He highlighted that the government will focus on eliminating the need for long queues and bribery. Wagle added that political stability sought by the private sector has been achieved, and the government will now ensure policy stability to drive economic prosperity. He stressed promoting a liberal, business-friendly economic environment without allowing unregulated freedom. The minister also requested CNI's support in attracting multinational companies and their investments.

Finance Secretary Dr. Ghanshyam Upad-

hayak asked the CNI to suggest provisions and reforms that could make investment facilitation easier.

The discussion was attended by Immediate Past President of CNI Rajesh Kumar Agrawal, former Presidents Haribhakt Sharma and Vishnu Kumar Agarwal, Governing Council members Shiva Ratan Sharda and Shashikant Agrawal, Vice Presidents Hem Raj Dhakal, Bhim Ghimire, and Gokul Bhandari, OB members Vidushi Rana and Sandeep Sharda, President of CNI Young Entrepreneurs Forum Manish Shrestha, and Director General Dr. Ghanashyam Ojha, all of whom provided suggestions on economic reforms and policies for

CNI Signs MoU with Norvic Hospital

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Norvic Hospital, marking the beginning of a meaningful partnership in healthcare support.

This collaboration represents a significant step toward enhancing access to quality healthcare services for Nepal's industrial and business community. Through this agreement, CNI members and their teams will have access



to dedicated medical support services at Norvic Hospital, ensuring timely and reliable care when it matters most.

In addition, members will benefit from preferential rates and exclusive discount facilities across a wide range of healthcare services. This initiative reflects our continued commitment to supporting the well-being and productivity of our members by making quality healthcare more accessible and affordable.

CNI Meets Minister for MoLESS, Discusses Employment and Industrial Growth

A delegation from the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) met with the Minister for the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS), Dipak Kumar Sah, today to discuss employment generation, industrial promotion, and collaboration between the government and the private sector.

During the meeting, CNI President Birendra Raj Pandey congratulated Minister Sah on assuming his new role and extended his best wishes for a successful tenure.

President Pandey emphasized that government policies should provide greater incentives to manufacturing industries in order to create more employment opportunities in the country. He stated that the manufacturing sector has a vital role in driving economic growth and generating jobs.

He further expressed CNI's commitment to working closely with the ministry for the overall growth of the country's economy and to support employment generation.

"To generate more employment, policies should be designed to incentivize manufacturing industries," President Pandey said. "CNI is always ready to work together with the min-



istry for the broader economic growth of the country and employment generation."

Minister Sah said that the government is fully aware that the economy can only be sustained through the promotion of industries. He highlighted the importance of industrial production and employment generation in strengthening the national economy.

The Minister also assured the CNI delegation that the ministry would not take any deci-

sion that could create difficulties for industries.

"The government understands that sustainable economic growth is possible only through the promotion of industries," Minister Sah said. "The ministry will not make any decision that creates problems for industries."

CNI Vice President Bhim Ghimire, OB Member Vidushi Rana, Director General Dr. Ghanashyam Ojha were also present in the discussion.

CNI discussion with ILO

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held a meeting with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on March 25, 2026, at the ILO Office in Kathmandu to discuss Nepal's economic growth strategy and labour market priorities.

During the meeting, CNI presented its ongoing study, "Pathway for Nepal to Reach a \$100 Billion Economy," being developed in collaboration with the National Planning Commission, Investment Board Nepal, and the Ministry of Finance. The study outlines a roadmap to expand Nepal's economy to \$100 billion within the next decade through higher productivity, increased investment, and improved labor force participation, supported by strategic sectors, structural reforms, and MSME-driven growth.

ILO provided key feedback emphasizing the need to address external risks, ensure inclusive growth, and strengthen labour market outcomes. Discussions highlighted challenges such as remittance dependency, low female labour force participation, skills gaps, climate vulnerability, and constraints faced by MSMEs. ILO also stressed the importance of fair wage growth, better migrant reintegration, and



investment in the care economy.

CNI welcomed the feedback and reaffirmed its commitment to making the report more inclusive and implementation-focused. It also highlighted plans to strengthen MSME linkages, promote high-value tourism, and establish mechanisms to address labour-related issues.

In his concluding remarks, ILO Director Mr. Numan underscored that Nepal's growth must be inclusive, generate decent jobs, and reduce reliance on remittances, while ensuring stronger support for MSMEs and worker protection. He also expressed ILO's interest in continued collaboration with CNI.

CNI Tourism Committee Holds Interaction with Immigration Director General

2 6 March 2026 The CNI Tourism Committee held an interaction meeting with Ram Chandra Tiwari, Director General of the Department of Immigration, to discuss key issues and recommendations aimed at improving airport services and enhancing Nepal's tourism experience.

During the meeting, Committee Chair Pamfa Dhamal highlighted concerns over long queues at Tribhuvan International Airport due to the lack of dedicated business and tourist counters. The Committee recommended reinstating separate service desks and introducing a structured immigration lane system for diplomatic, business class, tourist, and general passengers.

The Committee also proposed implementing an online visa fee payment system to align with international best practices, improve visitor convenience, and boost tourism revenue. Additionally, maintaining separate data records for Non-Resident Nepalis (NRNs) and foreign nationals was suggested for better tracking and policy planning.

Responding to the concerns, DG Tiwari ac-



knowledgeed the issues and stated that efforts would be made to address them within the department's mandate, noting that some recommendations have already been implemented.

The meeting was attended by Co-chairs Ashok Pokharel and Romi Aryal, CNI Director General Ghanashyam Ojha, along with committee members and immigration officials.

CNI Hosts 5th Talk Series on AI to Drive Business Transformation

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) organized the 5th edition of its ongoing CNI Talk Series on "Transforming Businesses through AI Excellence" at its Secretariat in Trade Tower, Thapathali. The session was designed to engage high-level management and business leaders from diverse sectors on the growing importance of artificial intelligence (AI) in driving business transformation.

The session featured Mr. Suresh Manandhar, a distinguished AI scientist, academic, and entrepreneur with over 35 years of experience, as the resource person. Mr. Manandhar holds a PhD in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Edinburgh and has previously led the AI Research Group at the University of York, UK. He currently serves as Honorary Chair in AI at Madan Bhandari University of Science and Technology (MBUST) and is also the CEO and Chief Scientist at Wiseyak, where he focuses on developing AI-driven healthcare solutions for low-resource settings. Mr. Manandhar delivered an insightful presentation on the practical applications of AI across industries, followed by an engaging and interactive discussion with participants. He emphasized the importance of integrating AI into business processes to enhance efficiency, innovation, and long-term competitiveness.

The event saw the participation of around



40 business leaders, including the CNI President, Director General, Office Bearers, National Council members, and representatives from various industries. Participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing perspectives and exploring the transformative potential of AI.

Attendees described the session as highly relevant and practical, expressing their intention to apply the insights gained in areas such as research and development, operations,

production, and strategic decision-making. Many noted that the session provided valuable direction on how businesses in Nepal can become more future-ready through the adoption of AI technologies.

CNI has been organizing the Talk Series as part of its broader effort to promote knowledge sharing and innovation within the private sector, helping businesses stay aligned with emerging global trends and technological advancements.

Capacity-Building Training on Quality Infrastructure for Trade and Market Access



Department of Industry Nepal and with technical support from the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM), organized a Capacity-Building Training on Quality Infrastructure for Trade and Market Access on 11 March 2026 at Hotel Himalaya under the Make in Nepal – Swadeshi Campaign. The training brought together 50 representatives from SMEs, MSMEs, and large-scale industries to enhance their understanding of quality standards, certification systems, and quality management practices that strengthen product reliability and improve market competitiveness. The program began with opening remarks from Dr. Ghanashyam Ojha, Director General of the CNI, who highlighted the importance of quality certification and regulatory compliance for strengthening Nepal's industrial sector.

The technical sessions were facilitated by Prabhat Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General



of NBSM, who introduced the concept and pillars of Quality Infrastructure, and Sanjeev Thakur, Director of NBSM, who discussed Quality Management Systems (QMS) and the benefits of adopting international standards such as ISO 9001 for improving productivity and customer satisfaction. Participants also received a detailed overview of the Nepal Standard (NS) certification process, including its procedures and legal framework. The program also featured an industry experience-sharing session by Sushil Kumar Agrawal from Pashupati Filter, who shared his company's success story in obtaining NS certification, highlighting how it improved product credibility and market recognition. The sessions were highly interactive, encouraging active participation and discussion among industry representatives, making the training both practical and engaging for participants.

CNI Welcomes...

Efforts to control revenue leakage, simplify services for taxpayers, consolidate similar funds and channel investments into high-return projects, and position Nepal as a hub for wellness tourism are also commendable. The initiation of a minimum support price mechanism for major food crops further reflects a balanced approach to economic development. CNI is confident that the government will continue to

prioritize collaboration with the private sector for overall economic growth.

CNI has consistently urged all political parties to place economic agendas at the forefront. The government's plan to synthesize actionable commitments from the manifestos of all political parties into a unified national commitment is a positive step. CNI hopes that this national commitment will remain firmly focused on driving economic development.

As always, CNI remains committed to pro-

viding research-based policy recommendations to the government and regulatory bodies. It will continue to support the current administration with evidence-based suggestions centered on strengthening the overall economy.

CNI extends its best wishes for a successful tenure of Prime Minister Balendra Shah and expresses confidence that Nepal will move toward a new phase of economic growth with increased investment, job creation, and the expansion of productive industries.